



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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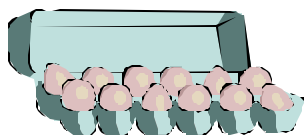
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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady. Demand was moderate to very good at times with seasonal retail interest providing best movement. Supplies of all sizes were generally adequate to occasionally balanced. Breaking stock supplies were adequate to fully adequate from regular sources and demand for additional product remained limited. Spent hen availability was adequate to ample for normal and reduced schedules.

NORTH ATLANTIC SHELL Prices were unchanged in all areas. The market tone was about steady, trade sentiment was cautious. Demand was generally good with holiday preparation stimulating the best movement. Supplies were adequate. Breaking stock supplies were fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Light type hens were fully sufficient for current needs.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged. The market tone was about steady. Demand was fairly good entering the holiday week. Supplies of all sizes were adequate. Large eggs were advertised in the area from \$.99 to \$1.39 for an 18ct package.

CHICAGO All prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Retail and food service demand moderate to good, best where features are planned or in progress. Features noted on large eggs 2 dozen for \$1.00 and 89 cents per dozen. Supplies mostly adequate instances short on mediums.

MIDWEST Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady to mostly steady. Cartoned egg demand was moderate to very good. Loose egg movement was light to moderate. Supplies were in close balance to adequate with some graders working additional hours. Central States nest run breaking stock and checks and undergrade prices were lower. Most breakers not interested in additional product as regular commitments and company owned production easily satisfy current needs. Offerings adequate to fully adequate. Trade sentiment cautiously steady to mostly barely steady.

SOUTHERN Prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady entering the week. Demand was seasonally good as many retailers were preparing for the holiday weekend. Supplies were usually adequate. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for week ending April 14, 2000, was 69.24 cents, unchanged from the week before, and 9.32 cents more than the same week last year. Breaking stock supplies were fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Light type fowl were adequate to ample for schedules that ranged from normal to less than normal.

WESTERN Prices unchanged on all sizes throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 8% lower than last Monday with California down 5% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 13%. Retailer demand seasonally good. Floor stocks reported clearing satisfactorily in most quarters.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	93-95	85-87	59-61
New York	73-75	70-73	53-56
Philadelphia	71-73	69-71	52-53
SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	64-65	62.5-64	45-46
Jackson (1)	74-75	71-72	54-55
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	72-85	69-83	52-66
MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	63-68	62-67	45-50
Detroit (2)	60-63	59-62	41-44
Major Ohio Cities (2)	61-66	60-64	42-47
Major Wisconsin Cities	64-67	62-69	45-52
WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	79-81	75-78	58-61
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	99	95	81

(1) - Prices reported weekly
(2) - Delivered Warehouse
(3) - Reported Invoice prices

CALIFORNIA Prices unchanged. The California inventory was 5% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand seasonally good. Floor stocks clearing up to expectations in most quarters though late breaking ads causing usual last minute nervousness. Small invoice price 61. Ads in Northern California: major-large 18 pack buy 1 get 1 free. Major Southern California weekend ad on large dozen 69.
PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	110
EXTRA LARGE	99
LARGE	95
MEDIUM	81
PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-279
LARGE	199-219
MEDIUM	187-199

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE
JUMBO	239-269
EXTRA LARGE	209-239
LARGE	179-239
MEDIUM	139-189

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending April 21, 2000 will increase by 33 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending April 14, 2000 were 298,256 cases which was 2 percent below the prior week and 7 percent above estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	261,647	36,609	298,256
% change from the prior week.....	-2	+3	-2

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices were lower. Most breakers were not interested in any additional product as regular commitments and company owned production was fully sufficient for current needs. Offerings adequate to fully adequate. Trade sentiment cautiously steady to mostly barely steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

RANGE	MOSTLY	
NEST RUN	30-33	30
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	15-18	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:

AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading was generally unchanged. Demand was light to moderate for at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were light to fair. Schedules were reduced. Trade sentiment was no better than steady. HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 17-APR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8.75-17	10-12	11.10

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority trading was unchanged to slightly lower when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings. Processing schedules were normal to heavy. Undertone was about steady to steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 17-APR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	7-16	8.25-10.75	10.68
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Apr 17, 2000

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

			NO CENT	SO CENT	SO Atl	5-Area Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	8.2	19.6	10.4	18.4	10.6	67.2
	Change	-2.3	0.0	2.5	-0.1	-1.1	-1%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	26.2	29.9	12.1	42.1	19.4	129.7
	Change	-6.4	-12.4	-2.2	2.9	-8.8	-17%
Large	Curr Wk	40.9	95.0	74.1	110.8	143.3	464.1
	Change	-34.6	-61.5	-19.6	-18.4	0.3	-22%
Medium	Curr Wk	12.9	22.9	14.4	17.6	26.0	93.8
	Change	-1.3	-11.2	-12.0	-5.2	-3.2	-26%
Small	Curr Wk	4.7	5.0	3.8	2.8	3.3	19.6
	Change	-0.3	-1.8	0.5	-2.0	-3.3	-26%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.3	19.7	7.9	16.1	6.2	54.2
	Change	-0.8	4.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.3	7%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	28.4	36.5	12.0	31.1	39.0	147.0
	Change	-8.6	-14.4	-5.8	-6.2	-5.9	-22%
Total	Curr Wk	125.6	228.6	134.7	238.9	247.8	975.6
Percent	Change	-30%	-30%	-22%	-11%	-8%	-20%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	975.6	-20%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	397.8	1%	39
Total Shell Egg	1373.4	-15%	209

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 03, 2000

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	162	158.9	149.9	108.9

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING APRIL 03, 2000 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	126	126	116	76

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR APRIL 14, 2000**CURRENT LOADS** 8.50**FUTURE LOADS** 4.25**TOTAL LOADS** 25.75

SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST		CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	47.00	—	47.00	49.00	—	—	4.00	GNR W 1	—	32.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	23.00	24.00	1.00	GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	.75
GL W XL	—	—	57.00	57.50	52.00	—	3.25	GL W MD	32.00	—	—	—	—	—	.75
GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	36.00	.75								
GL W SM	—	—	21.00	22.00	—	—	1.00								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 04/08/00-04/14/00**CURRENT LOADS** 71.25**FUTURE LOADS** 34.25**TOTAL LOADS** 105.50

		SE		NE		MW		LOADS			SC	NW		SW	LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	47.60	49.00	47.67	49.67	46.00	—	26.00		GNR W 1	—	44.42	—	—	—	—	7.00
GNR W 2	—	—	38.50	43.00	—	—	6.00		GNR BR 1	—	51.00	—	—	—	—	2.75
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	21.08	22.67	3.00		GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	50.56	2.25
GL W J	—	—	—	—	39.33	—	2.25		GL W XL	51.50	50.00	—	—	57.00	56.20	4.50
GL W XL	—	—	57.00	57.33	50.60	—	13.50		GL W LG	52.25	56.00	—	—	—	55.71	6.25
GL W LG	—	—	54.50	57.97	49.43	—	10.25		GL W MD	32.00	—	—	—	—	36.40	3.25
GL W MD	—	38.50	33.75	36.00	28.00	36.00	10.75		GL BR XL	—	58.00	—	—	—	—	.50
GL W SM	—	—	20.20	21.50	—	—	5.00		GL BR LG	—	58.00	—	—	—	—	.75
GL BR XL	—	—	—	—	52.00	—	.50		NRBS - 39	17.00	19.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	52.00	—	.75									
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	30.33	10.00									
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.00									
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	14.75	16.75	3.00									

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 04/02/00 - 04/08/00

Origin State	CO	IL	IA	MN	MO	NH	OH	OR	SD	TX	UT	WI	TOTAL
N. CA	0	0	906	0	0	0	672	1,675	0	0	1,763	0	5,016
C. CA	720	0	0	830	0	0	812	0	0	0	720	0	3,082
S. CA	3,017	830	14,543	4,490	1,264	800	3,900	0	900	800	5,476	1,350	37,369
TTL STATE	3,737	830	15,449	8,320	1,264	800	5,384	1,675	900	800	7,958	1,350	45,467

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

NEW ENGLAND

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
112-115	74-77	66-69	40-43	16-19

DETROIT EGGS

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
68-71	59-65	57-62	39-44	23-27

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
43-45	27-29	13-15

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
78.27	60.93	42.18

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	4/10/00	4/03/00	4/12/99
PACIFIC COAST	375	454	128
LOS ANGELES	262	319	32

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR APRIL 11,2000:

	CARTONS	WTG AVG
EX-LARGE	149-155	153.43
LARGE	143-150	148.21
MEDIUM	124-135	132.33
SMALL	105-109	106.01

Receipts from the mainland: 4/02/00-4/08/00
30-dozen cases 3,598

Receipts from the mainland: 3/26/00-4/01/00
30-dozen cases 3,546

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